

# NORFOLK LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION



## MINUTES OF A DELEGATES' MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019 AT 10.00 AM AT ROYAL NORWICH GOLF CLUB

Present: Alex Mournian (EG Voting Member and East Region Delegate), Heather Keeble (County President), Margo Horsburgh (County Secretary), Helen Ayres (County Treasurer), Sue Hill (Chairman of the Executive and Chairman Competitions' Sub-Committee), Sue Heeles (County Captain), Sam Martin (Immediate Past Captain), Sherrell Chuter (County Junior Organiser), Sue Allen (County Handicap Adviser), Liz Dann (Executive Committee Member), Nickie Clarke (SSS Assessor)

The following clubs were represented

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Barnham Broom         | Di Daniels                          |
| Bawburgh              | Christine Frazer                    |
| Costessey Park        | Carol Wilson and Christine Green    |
| Denver                | Cheryl Singleton and Sue Edwards    |
| Dereham               | Kay Bates and Jane Bizley           |
| Dunston Hall          | Chrissie Owens                      |
| Eaton                 | Clair Howell                        |
| Fakenham              | Pam Whitehead                       |
| Feltwell              | Denise Whiting                      |
| Gt Yarmouth & Caister | Sue Allen                           |
| Hunstanton            | Jean Johnson                        |
| King's Lynn           | Anne Lawman                         |
| Links Country Park    | Caroline Collett                    |
| Mattishall            | Sarah Hales                         |
| Mundelsey             | Janet Brown                         |
| Richmond Park         | Cherrie Lawn                        |
| Royal Cromer          | Sandra Wiseman                      |
| Royal Norwich         | Angela Loveday and Julia Hutchinson |
| Royal West Norfolk    | Penny Bonas                         |
| Ryston Park           | Pam Brooke                          |
| Sheringham            | Sue Clayton and Janet Starkings     |
| Sprowston Manor       | Debbie Dale and Peggy Gower         |
| Swaffham              | Mary Haskins                        |
| Wensum Valley         | Linda Sheppard and Debbie Stevens   |

|            |   | <u>Action</u> |
|------------|---|---------------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>  |               |
|            | AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the ladies on the top table.   |               |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>APOLOGIES</b>  |               |
|            | Lesley Bingle (Executive Committee), Vanessa Mann (County Second Team Captain/Executive), Sarah Dewhurst (Links Country Park), Karen Callow and Sophie de Winton (Heacham Manor), Margaret Hayward (Thetford), Pat Webb (Middleton Hall). |               |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  |               |
|            | The minutes of the meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 were agreed as correct and signed by AM. Proposed Christine Green (Costessey Park) seconded Jean Johnson (Hunstanton).   |               |

|            |   | <u>Action</u> |
|------------|---|---------------|
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  |               |
| 4.1        | <u>Handicap Adviser's Report</u> : this had been circulated with the minutes.   | Closed        |
| 4.2        | <u>Inter-club Competition Entry Forms</u> : as requested these had been sent out to the clubs.  | Closed        |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>VOTING MEMBER AND EAST REGION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT</b>  |               |
| 5.1        | <u>Role of the Voting Member</u> : AM informed the meeting that her role was to represent both the Association and the Clubs reporting on current issues and taking back to EG any relevant matters. She stated that EG's focus was to grow the game, future proof it and to this end there were many initiatives taking place such as Get into Golf, Golf Sixes, Women & Girls Golf Week, Why I Golf and supporting the R&A with the Women's Charter.  |               |
| 5.2        | <u>Club Support Officers (CSOs)</u> : a review had taken place with regard to CSOs and where previously there had been eight regions these were reduced to five which resulted in the number of CSOs being reduced from 35 to 20. Norfolk's CSO was Jordan Dymond who now covers both Suffolk and Norfolk.  |               |
| 5.3        | <u>Affiliation Fees, U14 Funding, Insurance and Independent Golfer</u> : the affiliation fee for 2020 will be increased to £9.50 with the increase being ring fenced to cover the U14 Talent Programme. EG had introduced, for every affiliated member, a Personal Liability Insurance with the level of cover being £10m. This is provided by a company called Bluefin Sport and frequently asked questions can be found on EG's website. To be covered all affiliated members will have to activate their account. There is ongoing research and studies regarding independent golfers providing an opportunity to get more members into clubs.   |               |
| 5.4        | <u>Continued Investment</u> : EG is dedicated to continued investment in talent pathways, support networks, coaching and tournaments, to produce County players and County teams.   |               |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>EXECUTIVE REPORT INCLUDING COMPETITIONS' REPORT</b>  |               |
| 6.1        | <u>Executive Report</u> : SHill stated that a new Transportation Policy had been discussed and agreed by the Executive and a copy will be placed on the website. She reminded those present that there were two vacancies for places on the Executive for 2020 encouraging ladies to apply. Application forms and a job description can be obtained by contacting the County Secretary.   | MH            |
| 6.2        | <u>Chair of Competitions' Report</u> : SHill congratulated SHeeles, the County Team and associated members of the support team on the success at County Week held this year at Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands in Bedfordshire. Now two-thirds of the way through County competitions with a very successful Seniors' Championship held at Royal Cromer and Divisional Meetings have run smoothly. The Inter-club Handicap League is well on the way to completion with results being updated on the website. The Scratch League is not quite at the finishing stages as these are often closer to the end of the season. Knock-out competitions are also nearing the final stages. There have been a few problems this season with the knock-out competitions mainly due to the fact that clubs are not aware of the Terms of the Competition which can be found on the website. A suggestion had been made that a contact list be put together for the Diamond Knock-out. Dogs on courses had proved a problem this year in a couple of competitions and our Terms for events will be amended. There was also a problem with a tie in the Oppenheim Trophy where, once again, there were no Terms and this will be addressed. |               |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT</b>  |               |
|            | SHeeles held up the trophy successfully defended by Norfolk at Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands. She stated that the team was very strong and preparation for the event had been excellent which meant we were confident of a good outcome. Had undertaken Pilates, coaching with Tony Varney and matches versus the Seniors, Hunstanton and Norfolk Boys. The team did not let Norfolk down even though it was pretty nail biting on the Friday afternoon trying to win the point to secure our success. She thanked everyone who had supported, spectators/caddies and to everyone who had sent cards. The next challenge is the County Finals this year being held at Delamere Forest in Cheshire on 16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> September where the opposition will be Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, Surrey and Yorkshire. Obviously, the team will do their best but we will be without Amelia and Amy who will have gone back to America, however, their omission gives an opportunity to others and we have a good blend of youth and experience. Once again regular updates will be on Facebook and the Twitter feed.   |               |

|             |  | <u>Action</u> |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| <b>8.0</b>  | <b>JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT</b>   |               |
|             | SC thanked the clubs that had supported the junior girls by allowing them to play on their courses. The juniors were having a good year and were looking forward to the challenge of the Junior County Match Days being played at Wensum Valley on 12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> August against Bedfordshire, Cambs and Hunts, Essex, Hertfordshire and Suffolk. She encouraged ladies to come along and support stating that the team and further information was on the website.  |               |
| <b>9.0</b>  | <b>HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT</b>   |               |
|             | Sue Allen the County Handicap Adviser gave an update stating that the new rules had settled in and it had been fairly quiet on the handicap front. As expected, the date for the launch of the World Handicap System had been put back and will now not take place until November 2020. In conjunction with Kevin Joy, the Handicap Adviser for the Norfolk County Golf Union, she will be making a presentation to handicap secretaries and club administrators. The date and venue are yet to be confirmed but expected to be in February 2020. SA's report is incorporated in the minutes at Appendix 1.  | MH            |
| <b>10.0</b> | <b>NEW WEBSITE</b>   |               |
|             | Chrissie Owens gave a report on the website and social media supported by a slide presentation. There were some interesting statistics and once again MH will send a copy of the slides out with the minutes.  | MH            |
|             | Nickie Clarke thanked Chrissie for the hard work she had undertaken to produce the new website as, having done the first site, she knew the amount of time and planning needed.  |               |
| <b>11.0</b> | <b>SCRATCH SCORE ASSESSOR'S REPORT</b>   |               |
|             | NC gave an update with regard to the situation on Scratch Score Assessments and that these have to be done every 10 years. Now at the end of the second cycle with only one course left to assess in Norfolk. She explained that there was a lot more involved as some courses had gone to gender-free tees which meant an SSS had to be done for each one which could involve three or four tees for both men and ladies. She stated that clubs would be sent their course rating which is the decimal equivalent of the scratch score. EG is awash with getting these done and the information sent out to the clubs well ahead of time. NC thanked her team who undertook the course ratings.   |               |
| <b>12.0</b> | <b>QUESTION AND ANSWERS</b>  |               |
| 12.1        | <u>Leagues</u> : Swaffham would like the cut off dates for the Handicap League and the Scratch League to be the end of September. SHill explained that the reason for the different dates is to give those ladies who play in the Scratch League more opportunities as the Inter-club Handicap League will have been completed.  |               |
| 12.2        | <u>County Championship</u> : Jean Johnson of Hunstanton had asked if the presentation of the first day cups and team trophy could be undertaken on the final day of the Championship. HK explained that the first day presentation was about the handicap prizes and the team and not everyone would want to come back on the Sunday, especially to courses which would mean a fairly long journey. The point was also made about the length of time some players had to wait until they knew what their start time would be in the match play. It was explained that this was unavoidable especially when the competition was being played on a course where a two tee start was not possible. Most players who lived a long way from the venue usually booked overnight accommodation. |               |
| 12.3        | <u>Handicap Limits in County Championship and Division 2 Meeting</u> : SHill explained that the Executive was aware of the situation and were proposing to undertake a review of all our competitions, however, any changes made would not come into effect until 2021.  | Exec          |
| 12.4        | <u>Buggy Permits</u> : communication had been received from Fakenham enquiring as to whether the Executive would allow ladies to self-certificate due to the cost of acquiring a doctor's certificate or whether we could identify two GPs within the county who would be willing to certify a player at a more reasonable cost. This was considered by the Executive and whilst they had sympathy with ladies at the cost some GPs were charging, felt that doctors would not be prepared to do this for someone who was not registered with their practice. Also had to be mindful of EG's policy for when ladies were playing in an EG competition.   |               |

**13.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date to be advised but will be March 2020 venue to be confirmed.

Action

MH

The meeting closed at 11.20 am. Alex Mournian thanked everyone for attending and hoped that they found it interesting and informative. Heather Keeble thanked Alex Mournian for a lively and successful meeting.

*Delegates Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019      Handicap Adviser's Report*

- New rules have settled in.
- Fairly quiet on the Handicapping front.

**Looking ahead to the WHS** - the launch has been delayed till November 2020.

In the New Year, I will be working together with Kevin Joy of the Norfolk County Union, to make a presentation to handicap secretaries and club administrators.

The date and venue are yet to be confirmed but we are hoping to hold the meeting mid February 2020. This meeting will include a power point presentation, which will follow the direction of England Golf. We should also have supporting materials for golf clubs in the form of posters etc.

Earlier in the year, I offered to go along to clubs to give a short informal talk to members about the new system. I have done several of these and have a couple more visits planned for October. The idea of these is just to give an overview of the basics from the players' point of view – not the technical stuff. If anyone is interested in arranging a talk, please get in touch and we can fix a date to suit. There is no rush because of the delayed launch date!

A little bit of information about the new system.....

- Averaging System – your **HANDICAP INDEX** will be worked out by averaging the **Best 8 out of your last 20 scores**
- All courses will have a **SLOPE RATING** as well as a **Course Rating**
- You will have to look up your **COURSE HANDICAP** at the club where you are playing your golf.
- There will be no need for players to worry about how everything is worked out -**THE COMPUTER** will do all the technical stuff.
- **PLAY YOUR GOLF** – The score will be entered as soon as possible at the Course being played. **THE COMPUTER WILL DO THE WORK**
- There will be **PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION** (instead of a CSS – Competitions Scratch Score)
- Handicaps will be updated overnight – **Hey Presto** – new hcp available in the morning!!
- There will be **EXCEPTIONAL SCORE REDUCTIONS**
- There will be a limit to how much a handicap can increase – **A HANDICAP CALCULATION CAP** – two types of cap: **HARD / SOFT**
- There will be **ANNUAL REVIEWS**
- **NO LAPSE OF HANDICAPS** - handicap will not lapse after a period of inactivity - **MUST BE A MEMBER OF AN AFFILIATED GOLF CLUB** – **Golf Club** Committees will govern eligibility for entry in the Terms of Competition

Please feel free to contact me for any advice – You are not being a “nuisance” – this is what I am here for!

Report by Sue Allen (NLCGA Handicap Adviser)

# NORFOLK LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION



## MINUTES OF A DELEGATES' MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 AT 9.45 AM AT ROYAL NORWICH GOLF CLUB

Present: Alex Mournian (EG Voting Member and East Region Delegate), Heather Keeble (County President), Margo Horsburgh (County Secretary), Helen Ayres (County Treasurer), Sue Hill (Chairman of the Executive and Chairman Competitions' Sub-Committee), Sue Heeles (County Captain), Sam Martin (Immediate Past Captain), Vanessa Mann (County Second Team Captain), Sherrell Chuter (County Junior Organiser), Sue Allen (County Handicap Adviser), Liz Dann (Executive Committee Member)

The following clubs were represented

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Barnham Broom         | Sharon Brooks-Clark and Di Daniels                 |
| Bawburgh              | Sandie Hammond and Christine Frazer                |
| Caldecott Hall        | Carol Schoenherr and Sandy Johnson                 |
| Costessey Park        | Carol Wilson and Debbie Darling                    |
| Dereham               | Jane Bizley  |
| Dunston Hall          | Sue Henderson and Chrissie Owens                   |
| Eaton                 | Epee Zandvoort, Jill Bullimore and Margaret Fisher |
| Fakenham              | Pam Whitehead and Suzy Watson                      |
| Feltwell              | Barbara Greatbatch and Denise Whiting              |
| Gt Yarmouth & Caister | Jean Johnson and Sally Shaw                        |
| Heacham Manor         | Sophie de Winton                                   |
| Hunstanton            | Jean Johnson                                       |
| King's Lynn           | Helen Marsters and Mary Wilson                     |
| Links Country Park    | Caroline Collett                                   |
| Mattishall            | Sarah Hales  |
| Middleton Hall        | Chris Woolley                                      |
| Mundelsey             | Janet Brown and Diana Clarke                       |
| Richmond Park         | Claire Carney                                      |
| Royal Norwich         | Jacky Pett, Angela Loveday and Jules Hutchinson    |
| Royal West Norfolk    | Carine Offord, Jane Thompson and Suzanna Bunting   |
| Ryston Park           | Pam Brooke   |
| Sheringham            | Sue Clayton and Pauline Gilston                    |
| Sprowston Manor       | Linda Kerry and Debbie Dale                        |
| Swaffham              | Nicole Linsell and Mary Haskins                    |
| Thetford              | Mary Neal and Margaret Hayward                     |
| Wensum Valley         | Linda Sheppard and Debbie Stevens                  |

Action

### 1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the ladies on the top table.

### 2.0 APOLOGIES

Lesley Bingle (Executive Committee), Sarah Dewhurst (Links Country Park), Kari Joyce and Clair Howell (Eaton), Karen Callow (Heacham Manor) and Pat Webb (Middleton Hall).

### 3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were agreed as correct and signed by AM. Proposed Christine Frazer (Bawburgh), seconded Margaret Hayward (Thetford).

|            |   | <u>Action</u> |
|------------|---|---------------|
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  |               |
| 4.1        | <u>Communication</u> : action with regard to Hunstanton had been implemented.   | Closed        |
| 4.2        | <u>Scratch League Fixtures</u> : Beryl Nash, who runs the Scratch League, had undertaken a survey of the clubs involved, the outcome of which was that they did not want a fixtures' meeting.   | Closed        |
| 4.3        | <u>Club Support Officer's Report</u> : Karen Woodrow's report has been sent out to all clubs.   | Closed        |
| 4.4        | <u>Speed of Play in Competitions and Travelling Time</u> : It would be impractical to do an east-west split due to the way the leagues are run.   | Closed        |
| 4.5        | <u>Nine Hole Competitions Run in Conjunction with 18 Hole Competitions</u> : The Executive Committee felt that nine-hole competitions were a matter for clubs. With regard to running concurrently this would mean more work for the organiser and would require more tee times at golf clubs. MH informed the meeting that she was having some difficulty this year with the 2020 fixtures.  | Closed        |
| 4.6        | <u>Dates for Diamond Knock-out</u> : Not possible to change the starting date of this competition due to the congestion of the fixture list.  | Closed        |
| 4.7        | <u>Gillieson Cup</u> : Would be discussed at item 10.   |               |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT</b>  |               |
|            | Sherrell gave a very comprehensive report on what was happening with regard to junior girls' golf which included the following:   |               |
|            | a. Winter Training Programme – two sessions had been held at Mattishall Golf Club with Tony Varney when 21 girls had attended. Judi Walker gave a presentation on the new Rules of Golf and their application. Finished session with girls playing a Florida scramble.  |               |
|            | b. Norfolk Talent Programme – four centres had agreed to hold 20 hours of coaching for 6-8 girls, ie Eaton, Mattishall, Middleton Hall and King's Lynn.   |               |
|            | c. Girls' Golf Rocks – SC had attended a meeting held at Barnham Broom where delegates from the chose centres (Eaton, Barnham Broom, Dereham, Mundesley and Searles) were given a pack containing details.  |               |
|            | d. Junior County Match Days – being held in Norfolk on 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> August at Wensum Valley Golf Club.  |               |
|            | e. Junior Competition Entries – all juniors have received entry forms for our own competitions. East Region Junior Championship is on Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Newton Green Golf Club in Suffolk.   |               |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>UPDATE ON ENGLAND GOLF AND ROLE OF THE DELEGATE</b>  |               |
|            | AM stated that she was very much in a period of transition having taken on the role of the Association's Delegate to England Golf at the AGM last November. England Golf are the governing body for amateur golf in England and is dedicated to growing the game and working with Counties, Clubs and golfers. She explained that she was the conduit between EG and the Association and ultimately the Clubs of Norfolk. She explained that she would be attending EG induction training and also her first General Meeting in April so hopefully by the next Delegates' meeting she would be much better equipped to answer questions and impart information. EG are in the process of restructuring the Club Support network but details have yet to be published. She explained that she was also the Association's representative on the East Region Co-ordination group which organises East Region competitions. She encouraged ladies to enter regional competitions which included events at junior and senior level. She reminded those present that County week will be held at Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands Golf Club on 17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> June. The East Region Foursomes is being held at Three Rivers Golf Club on 23 <sup>rd</sup> April. |               |

## 7.0 EXECUTIVE REPORT INCLUDING COMPETITIONS' REPORT

7.1 SH stated that the Executive Committee had been busy on your behalf and here is a précis of the decisions we have made.

- a. Reviewed the Rules and Regulations that apply to both County competitions and the roles of members of any committee and those who act as organisers of our competitions.
- b. Updated County Expenses' Policy and currently working on the Transportation (Buggy) Policy. There will be some changes to this policy so make sure you look out for these if you have a buggy permit or think you may require one.
- c. Considering changes to the start and finish dates for the Inter-Club and Scratch Leagues.
- d. There will be vacancies for 2020 including the County Treasurer and two elected members. These will be advertised on the website and Margo will be sending details out to the clubs.
- e. Entry forms for all County competitions are on the old website and eventually on the new. Results' sheets are obtainable from Margo in the interim changeover period.

7.2 Now on to competitions.

- a. Agreed that the Carrick Cup will be on fixed dates for all rounds from 2020.
- b. Looking carefully at the increased handicap allowances with a view to extending handicaps of existing Divisional Meeting.
- c. Rules updates this year include the Seniors' Championship reverting to a balloted entry in keeping with our County Championship as this is now a qualifier for the EG Senior Champion of Champions. The Inter-club League will now have a two-point penalty for any Club that is unable to honour a fixture after all reasonable attempts.

AM thanked SH for her report.

## 8.0 HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT

Sue Allen the County Handicap Adviser gave an update stating that it would be an interesting couple of years with the introduction of the new Rules of Golf and the implementation of the World Handicap System in 2020. England Golf had run a series of workshops on both these topics. She had arranged to visit some clubs to talk to the lady members about the new system and if any club would like her to come along she asked that they contact her. There were limited changes to the CONGU UHS for 2019. MH stated that she would send a copy of Sue's report out with the minutes as there was some interesting information available on CONGU'S website.

MH

AM thanked Sue for her report and for the work she undertook on behalf of the Association.

## 9.0 NEW WEBSITE

Chrissie Owens stated that she had been working with Nickie Clarke on our behalf to get the website up and running but there had been a delay due to technical difficulties. She was hopeful that the live date would be 1<sup>st</sup> April. Chrissie was thanked for all the work she had done for the Association.

## 10.0 GILLIESON CUP

SH Opened the discussion on this topic by stating that a request had been received from a club to look at holding every round of the Gillieson Cup at a neutral venue. Paperwork had been sent to all the clubs showing how this worked in Suffolk together with a sample draw showing how the process would work using neutral venues. There were, however, other models that we could use. The reason for bringing this to the Delegates was to ask the ladies to go back to their clubs in order that they could look at the implications of holding an event where no lady members would be participating.

A lively debate ensued with many suggestions for and against after which SH stated that a letter would be sent out to all clubs in an endeavour to find out if there is a consensus for change. Namely:

|             |  | <u>Action</u> |
|-------------|--|---------------|
|             | <p>a. Remain as we are.</p> <p>b. Wait until the slope system is embedded to see if it makes a home draw less of an advantage.</p> <p>c. Neutral option whereby clubs would have to agree to two ladies' teams, who are not members, using the facility to play the match while their ladies will be playing at another venue.</p> |               |
|             | <p>Replies to the letter to be received by MH by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in order that the Executive Committee could discuss at their meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019. The 2020 Inter Club Competitions entry form would be sent out after that meeting.</p>   | MH            |
| <b>11.0</b> | <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  |               |
|             | <p>This will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 but possibly Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019.</p>  | MH            |

The meeting closed at 11.20 am. Alex Mournian thanked everyone for attending and hoped that they found it interesting and informative. Heather Keeble thanked Alex Mournian for a lively and successful meeting.

## APPENDIX 1

### Handicap Advisers Report

#### World Handicap System

- Last year England Golf ran a series of workshops and most of the Norfolk Clubs were represented at one of these.
- I'm sure that, by now, you will all have heard a lot about the way the system will work.
- I haven't had any further news lately, except to say that it won't be starting in January (as was first indicated) but is more likely to be after April of 2020. We have been assured that it will not be launched until CONGU are happy that it will run smoothly.
- I will be holding a meeting for all our Handicap Secretaries once I have had more information. This is more likely to be in 2020, but I will keep everyone informed as and when I get any information.
- I have also arranged to visit some clubs to talk to the lady members about the new system and how it will affect us, as players. If any of you would like to arrange for me give a short talk at your club, do please contact me and I will try to arrange something. The only problem is that most of you have Tuesday as your competition day so most of my Tuesdays are taken from now till the end of the playing season but I would be very happy to come along on a different day if anyone is interested.
- The main message to get across is to encourage everyone to put in lots of qualifying scores, either in competitions or supplementary cards, to help the calculation of an accurate handicap.

#### This Year

- ALL the focus has been on the New Rules.
- We have had a lot to learn and committees are doing their best to help to educate their members.
- Limited changes have been made to the CONGU UHS for 2019. Many are associated with the introduction of the new Rules but a few are for clarification purposes. I would like to point out a couple of changes, which could impact on qualifying competitions.

- (1) **Maximum Score: Rule 21.2a** – allows committees to set a maximum score. **CONGU directs that Competitions capped at less than Par + 5 per hole will not be eligible for handicap alterations, and will be deemed as “non-qualifying” for handicap.**
- (2) **Alternative to stroke and distance** – this is a LOCAL RULE and when implemented, competitions **must not be qualifying**. It is important that you make your members aware of this rule, particularly if your club does implement it as a local rule for your club competitions. – make sure they are aware that in qualifying competitions they are not allowed to take the alternative to stroke and distance.

- More information is available on the congu website – I will explain later.

### Recording of No Returns

It is important that we encourage players to fill in all scores on their score-card even if they know they will be disqualified from a competition but the score will still count for handicapping.

The reason is this:- Transition from CONGU Handicapping System to WHS will use scores returned in 2019 (possibly earlier for some players) so it is important that clubs record, as accurately as possible, the full scores. If a “NO RETURN” is entered with a lot of zero scores these will be recorded as net double bogies and will skew the calculation for the averaging system.

### Terms of Competitions (previously known as Conditions of the Competition)

With all the changes coming in these may need updating - Committees should draft terms of the competitions for every event played at the club.

These should include:-

*Method of entry* – signing in procedure (computer / sign in sheet) payment of fee

*Format of competition* – Stroke play? Singles? Foursomes? Etc

*Start times* – Draw? Timesheet? Roll-up and play?

*Bad weather policy*

*Decision of ties* – play off or card count back? (THERE IS A CHANGE the rule 3.2a which may require you to change the wording)

*Prizes* – Are prizes awarded based on numbers competing? - one prize per person – which takes precedent?

*Match Play* – specify dates for each round. Specify procedure for arrangement of matches.

Etc. etc.

**MAY NOT** include anything that waives or modifies a Rule of Golf.

### (RandA Guidance on Running a Competition)

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE – I have mentioned using the CONGU website but** if you need help on the new rules, there is a lot of information available on the RandA website to explain the new rules and to help you educate your members. There are several PDF documents which can be found under the heading of COMMITTEE TOOL-KIT - click on RESOURCE CENTRE – then – click on GET STARTED.

One that I liked is entitled **RULES FACT SHEETS – what is new – what is the same.** There are also check lists etc.

CONGU Information – .....

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| Congu System  | Updates & Advice   | Useful Information   |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•View Manual online</li> <li>•How to obtain a Handicap</li> <li>•Club Secretary's Guide (updated for 2019)</li> <li>•Players Guide (updated for 2019)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Update to the System for 2019</li> <li>•Advice to committees on the impact of the 2019 Rules of Golf changes</li> <li>•Alternative to Stroke and Distance Local Rule</li> <li>•Maximum Score Competitions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Guide to Mixed Tee Handicapping (updated 3rd December 2018)</li> <li>•Mixed Tee Handicap Calculator (2 tees)</li> <li>•Continuous Handicap Review Guidance</li> <li>•Advice on players recording No Returns (NEW) - dated 10th Jan 2019</li> </ul> |